

**Coordinating Subcommittee for
Developmental Disabilities Services
Meeting Summary
May 1, 2012**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Developmental Disabilities Services met May 1, 2012, at the AIDT Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order by Associate Commissioner Ann White-Spunner.

Members Present

Ann White-Spunner, DMH/DD Representative
Willodean Ash, DMH/DD Representative
Jeff Williams, DMH/DD Representative
Steven Lafreniere, DMH/DD Representative
Jim Dill, Alabama Council Representative
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative
Dianne Durbin/Advocacy Services Representative
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Provider Representative
Danny Grant, Region 1, Consumer Representative
Blesses Malone, Consumer Representative
Jeff Ridgeway, People First Representative
John VanCamp (Vicki Turnage), Region 2, Provider Representative
Susan Klingel, Region 1, Provider Representative
Patti Martin, Region 4, Provider Representative
Bill Hoehle, Region 5, Provider Representative

Visitors

Anna McConnell, Daphne Rosalis, Audrey McShan, Susan Ford, Joey Kreauter, John Oaks, Cynthia Daniels, Barbara Brunson, LaGretta Ratliff, Cassandra Odom, Mike Martin, George Neal, Susan Ford, Anthony Couch, Andy Slate, Rebekah (Becky) Matthews, Lori Leathers, Carolyn Little, Mary Kemp, Alisha Weaver, Gwendolyn Johnson, Ellen Gillespie, Renee Holley, Vicki Turnage, Gary Edwards, Lee Conner, Bill Summer, and Regina Savage

Recorder

Shirley Hicks

Approval of April 3, 2012 Minutes (A. White-Spunner)

April 3, 2012, meeting minutes were presented to the subcommittee for approval.

Mr. Brightwell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Turnage, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda (A. White-Spunner)

Ms. White-Spunner presented the agenda for approval. Mr. Ridgeway requested time to read a statement from People First to the agenda. Mrs. Klingel made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Update

Mr. Kreauter gave an update of the budget status. He indicated that the Division shows a negative balance of \$765,000. The \$765,000 is tied to line item in the FY2012 budget which protected the Arc's. This money was to be covered by the Governor's office but we have not seen this money as yet therefore, it will be listed as a deficit under the Division.

Partlow has a break even status. The Partlow Cost report close out for 2011 and the terminating report for FY2012 reflects the Division owes Medicaid \$2.7 million. He indicated that he knew the Division was going to be in payback mode because the per diem rate for Partlow was too high. He already alerted Finance about what to expect.

This month's utility bill at Partlow campus is estimated to be between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The Division is in the process of trying to locate new office space for Region II Community Services. Hopefully, by the end of May the Division will have good options regarding office space. Also, the Legal Division informed him that there was a settlement for Partlow rendering. This means Partlow staff will be paid retro of about \$200,000. With these expenses, Partlow should still have enough to still break even.

From a proration standpoint, we were being asked to write out over \$4 million for FY2012. The total amount for the Department was \$12.3 million. He stated that the Commissioner indicated she found a one time offset from the bond issue to help with proration. The total amount of bond sale will be +/- \$15 million, of which \$9.6 million which goes to DMH. The remaining amount will go to the 310's. He stated that the Commissioner and Mr. Jackson will be meeting across the street tomorrow to discuss proration.

Division of Developmental Disabilities Updates

Mr. Williams gave an update on the standards training. He indicated that standards training in all five regions were completed.

The public comments, located on the Department's website under "Proposed

Changes", deadline is Friday, May 4, 2012. As mentioned at the subcommittee's last meeting, an email has been sent out indicating that the standards were on the Department's website.

Mr. Williams will compile the comments. He noted that he will be meeting with Ms. White-Spunner and the Commissioner to review the public comments.

Mr. White indicated that there will be Social Security Training today, at 1:00 p.m. at the Alabama Public Library. He confirmed two school systems were participating in Project SEARCH. Initially, he was hoping to get three school systems to participate as pilots but was only able to get two school systems to participate. Project SEARCH will be visiting in two weeks.

Mr. Williams commented that he received information regarding the shortage of funding for the Benefit Planners Program, and Mr. White replied that is correct.. There is a need for funding for this program. He thinks VR will continue to contribute money to this program in order to keep folks on board until September 2012.

Ms. White-Spunner indicated Mr. Slate is in the process of developing a residential rate setting committee. She indicated several of DD staff members had a brief discussion last week regarding the IRBI rates. The rate setting committee meeting is tentative scheduled for next week. Hopefully, the rate setting committee will be a permanent work group. So far, the following providers have representatives participating on the rate methodology committee: CDD, Life Ends, HOPE, PHP, Arc of St. Clair, Ability Alliance, Northwest Alabama, Baldwin County, Dothan MR/DD, Jefferson Arc; VOA; East Alabama, Business Manager from the Division, and the Community Services Directors. Ms. White-Spunner encouraged strong committee involvement.

Mr. Lafreniere gave an update on Children Services. He introduced Anna McConnell as the new Autism Coordinator. Ms. McConnell indicated that the next Autism meeting will be held Monday, May 7, 2012 at the AIDT Center. She stated that the annual report for the Autism Interagency Council was completed.

Mr. Lafreniere also updated the subcommittee on Early Intervention Services. He stated that Ms. Terri Pinto replaced Alice Widgeon as the Early Intervention Coordinator. He indicated ADRS is in the process of conducting provider audits. He stated they are working with ADRS to see what were some of their findings from their provider audits. It has come to his attention that early intervention slots are down 154 slots. This is a 10% decreased and ADRS is concerned about this. Ms. Klingel commented if Mrs. Pinto has any input on what ADRS audit consist of to please let her know. Mr. Lafreniere replied the audit is based on problematic issues/fiscal issues. Dr. Hoehle commented they already went through this audit, and they were asked for a mass amount of information.

Mr. Lafreniere also noted that Ms. Jewell Pitts is working with the Youth Leadership Forum. Ms. Pitts is responsible for the Mentor Luncheon, which will be held in the near future.

Currently, DD is in the process of reviewing two applications for Crisis Services. Also, three evaluation beds were discovered at Glenwood. DD also sent out a proposal for a 4-6 bed home.

Also, Mr. Lafreniere indicated he has been working with central office support staff regarding work loads and will be looking at creative ways to accomplish the work loads more efficiently.

He continues to work with the DD Task Force regarding transitioning from ID to DD. This is a really long and complicated process. A meeting will be held next month.

Ms. White-Spunner informed the group about the Medicaid Pharmacy Prescription limit issue. The Division has been asked to obtain information from providers regarding medications. Because of funding, there is a proposed across the board pharmacy prescription limit of 1 brand name and 3 generic medications (a total of 4 medications) for each Medicaid participant. Currently, antipsychotics are excluded from prescription limits. Ms. Klingel inquired if the Department is going to request to be exempted from this since many individuals receive more medications than three. Ms. White-Spunner indicated Dr. Stone is in the process of handling this issue with Dr. Williams who is the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Public Health.

People First

Mr. Ridgeway indicated that People First of Alabama received calls regarding information that is untrue. He wanted to give clarification regarding People First position on supported employment in the following statement (the People First Statement was also distributed to the subcommittee, via handouts):

People First of Alabama Employment Statement

"People first position on employment is all people with disabilities should have access to jobs and careers with fair wages and benefits. Our membership has consistently voiced this. We believe that employment should be the first option for adults with disabilities. In addition, we feel that people, who may not be employed by choice or by situation, should have many opportunities to participate in meaningful activities that promote their growth and development as human beings. It is correct, that we do not believe that the majority of individuals who are involved in day programs/sheltered work are involved in meaningful activities. However, we do not have an official position on sheltered

workshops. It has been a topic of discussion with our membership for the past ten years but there has not been a formal position taken on this.

We are concerned about the fact that providers are misrepresenting our position to people in day programs to scare them about the changes in services that is planned by the department due to the fact that the Department of Justice is considering sheltered employment as a potential violation of the Olmstead and the Health and Human Services Medicaid and Medicare Administration has issued a directive to states that sheltered workshops can no longer be funded by Medicaid waivers.

It has been reported to us that some of our chapters have been told that the leadership of People First is not advocating for their interests. In addition, some chapters have been advised that the organizations supporting them will assist them in putting the current leadership out of office. We have also been advised from some of our advisors that they will not allow their members to participate in People First events due to the fact that we have spoken out in regard to the failures of day programs and sheltered workshops in assisting our members in finding and keeping employment and in providing meaningful activities for our membership.

We think that these types of actions by organizations are wrong and that it must be stopped. We think an open objective discussion should occur.

Additional information on People First Position on Employment

People First of Alabama's Mission:

To make dreams happen for people with development mental disabilities living in Alabama through having choices and control over their lives.

People First of Alabama's Vision for People with disabilities in Alabama (August 30-31, 2011)

All people with disabilities will have access to:

- *Affordable and accessible transportation in their communities*
- *Jobs and careers with fair wages and benefits*
- *Safe, affordable and accessible housing*
- *Community life*

- *Long term relationships with their families, friends and significant others*
- *Supports and services needed to live full lives*

People First of Alabama members and support staff visited chapters in the summer of 2011. We ask the members participating to identify their priorities (25 out of 33 Chapters responded representing 1013 individuals). The priorities identified in order of votes were:

- *Transportation*
- *Employment*
- *Housing*
- *Community Involvement*
- *Waiting List*
- *Closing sheltered Workshops*
- *Money Management*
- *Relationships*
- *Lack of jobs for those with vision impairment*
- *Staff at day programs has the mindset that they will lose money if participants leave the program and go into the workplace*

Collected at Board Meeting in August 30, 2011 Total individuals participating: 21

Position statement on Employment developed in 2006:

We have a right to choose real jobs, to receive benefits and be paid fair wages for the work we do. We want opportunities for advancement and for self-employment, if we choose. We want careers, not activities."

Mr. Ridgeway announced People First of Alabama will be hosting a state conference in Birmingham June 14-15, 2012. The Conference Theme will be, "It's About Human Rights"

Dr. Dill inquired about the belief of People First Membership. He asked Mr. Ridgeway whether or not this statement truly represent the voice of everyone who is a member of People First. He wanted to know how many individuals who attend day programs are actually members of People First. In reply, Ms. Turnage replied there are 1,013 members of People First. There was never a definite answered regarding how many members of People First attended day

programs. Dr. Dill wanted to know if the Department made any attempts to survey people to see if they engage in meaningful activities at day programs. Dr. Ferguson replied VOA survey their individuals. Dr. Hoehle also replied they conduct self-determination surveys. Ms. White-Spunner commented every provider should be aware of where the people they serve want to be or not want to be, or whether they are experiencing meaningful activities.

Dr. Dill indicated the reason why he inquired about the belief of the People First Membership is because he does not want anyone to make a judgment for other people. Mr. Ridgeway indicated they send surveys to their chapters and this is where he received his information regarding individuals wanting to experience meaningful activities.

Mrs. Martin commented by 2013, community services will have all data in the system on each individuals regarding what they want. Currently, they are in the process of putting this information in the system.

Mrs. Klingel indicated she hate bringing this up but she would like to know when will they be permitted to bill for supported employment job developer. **Ms. Rosalis explained that the new service code approved in the current ID Waiver amendment is Day Habilitation 15 minute unit to be provided on the same day as Job Coach. The Job Coach (Supported Employment for Individual) and Job Developer service codes were already in the ID Waiver. These codes have not been widely utilized but have been available. Job Coach will only be authorized for a person that is working in an integrated and competitive paying job. Job Developer will only be authorized if there is no Voc-Rehab (VR) provider available for the waiver provider to utilize. The Job Developer code has specific training requirements (career development planning and vocational assessment) that still need to be developed. Mr. White is working on that component. If a person was assessed a number of years ago by VR and did not receive services at that time then the Division is encouraging the waiver provider to refer this person again before requesting Job Developer. Day Habilitation 15 minute unit will only be authorized for a person that is working in an integrated and competitive paying job or is utilizing VR services for vocational assessment, job development, or job coaching etc.**

Ms. Turnage asked Mr. White for advice on how could they approach VR about giving providers information they need regarding individuals, and Mr. White replied providers will need to first establish a relationship with VR. This will make all the difference in the world. Ms. Turnage added there were instances where information was misplaced. Ms. Rosalis commented it is very important for providers to keep good documentation.

Announcement

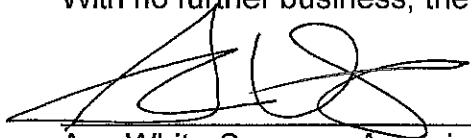
Ms. London will be retiring as of May 31, 2012. Ms. Ash will also be retiring effective June 30, 2012. Information regarding their retirement will be sent out in the near future.

Next Meeting

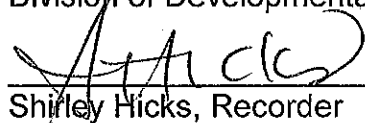
The next meeting will be held June 5, 2012, at the AIDT Center. Also, the July meeting will be held July 10, 2012 at the AIDT Center.

Meeting Adjourned

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Ann White-Spunner, Associate Commissioner
Division of Developmental Disabilities



Shirley Hicks, Recorder